

ABSTRACT

An operating mechanism for a movable closure element to releasably engage a strike assembly on a frame support and thereby releasably maintain the movable closure element in a predetermined position relative to the frame support. The operating mechanism has a base with an elongate portion with a first axis and a wall extending around the first axis and defining a passageway. A latch system on the base has (a) a latched state in which the latch system engages a strike element on the strike assembly so as to maintain a movable closure element on which the operating mechanism is mounted in the predetermined position and (b) a released state wherein the latch system can be disengaged from the strike element so as to allow a movable closure element on which the operating mechanism is mounted to be moved from the predetermined position. The operating mechanism further includes an actuating system on the base that is changeable from a first state into a second state to thereby change the latch system from the latched state into the released state. The actuating system has at least a first link which is movable axially within the passageway from a first position into a second

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position to thereby change the latch system from the latched state into the released state. The actuating system further includes an actuating assembly that can be directed radially through the wall on the base into operative engagement with the base without requiring separate fasteners to maintain the
5 operative engagement between the actuating assembly and the base.